



2007 Legislative Session Elections Bills

Electronic Voter Registration – HB 1528

- Beginning January 2008, a voter who has a Washington driver's license or state ID card may register or transfer a registration online. OSOS obtains a digital image of the person's signature from DOL.
- Online registrations are treated like mail-in registrations. For example, the 30 day deadline applies.

Saturday Counting and Post-Election Counts – SHB 1654

- When in possession of over 500 ballots that have yet to be canvassed:
 - Counties with over 75,000 must count daily.
 - Counties with less than 75,000 must count every third day.
- Counties no longer have to count on Saturdays.
- County Canvassing Boards in vote-by-mail counties must adopt a process for hand counting up to three precincts or six batches within 48 hours of election day.

Partisan Primary Ballots – SB 5408

- In a partisan election in a county using consolidated ballots, partisan votes may be counted even if the voter fails to check a party box as long as the voter votes down party line.

Presidential Primary Unaffiliated Ballot – HB 1526

- The "unaffiliated" ballot in the Presidential Primary is eliminated since neither political party recognizes it.

Election Contests and Certificates of Election – HB 2152

- Election contests must be filed within ten days of certification of the election.
- The bill clarifies that a certificate of election is ceremonial. (Certificates of election should not be confused with certification of the election.)

School Levies – EHJR 4204

- A proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November General Election ballot that will allow school levies to pass with a simple majority rather than super majority.

Certificates of Discharge – HB 1431

- County Auditors will no longer be sent copies of certificates of discharge. The former felon must register once eligible again to vote. The person still may not be eligible if he or she has other convictions still outstanding.

Other Bills of Interest

Regional Transportation Ballot Proposition – SHB 1396

- Pertains to King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.
- Sound Transit and the regional transportation investment district (RTID) must submit their transit and highway improvement plans as a single ballot proposition, rather than as two separate ballot propositions as previously required by 2006 legislation.
- The ballot proposition must be approved by a majority of voters in each taxing district.

New San Juan County Superior Court Position – SB 5247

- The two Superior Court positions currently shared by San Juan and Island Counties are assigned to Island County only.
- A newly created position is assigned to San Juan County.
- Both counties must agree to the funding before the change becomes effective.

Voter-Approved Funding Sources for Local Taxing Districts – ESB 5498

- The 0.3% "public safety" optional tax for counties and multi-year lid lifts is modified.
- Any property taxing district with regular levying authority may seek multi-year lid lifts over a six-year period in the same manner as counties, cities, and towns.

Annexation by a Water or Sewer District from a City – SSB 5231

- An alternative method of annexation is created for water and sewer districts.